

# The Poster Stamp Society Bulletin

PUBLISHED IN THE INTEREST OF POSTER STAMP COLLECTORS THE WORLD OVER

Walter Schmidt Editor

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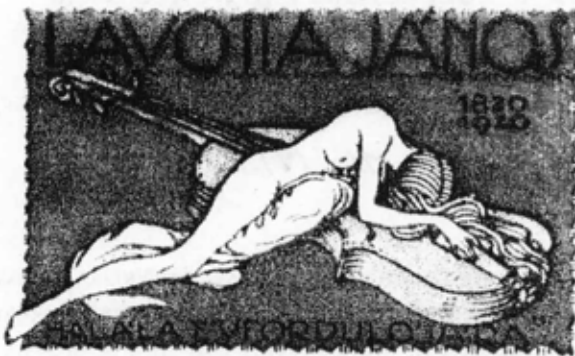
## Editorial:

Years ago we visited the Smithsonian Institute and among the many rooms we ENTERED we recall one in particular. It was a room filled with early painting of American Indians. The reason we recall this room so well is because we apparently set off an alarm which caused guards to come to our side and advise us that we were standing too close to the paintings. Years later we discovered the following series of vignettes. They were printed by the Great Northern Railway and featured a number of American Indians that were painted by J. Scheverle. Now we can get as close as we like to view what could very well be the very same paintings that were displayed on the wall in the Smithsonian long ago.



Note: There are 20 issues in this "See America first" series.

WE LEARNED THAT A YOUNG MAN NAMED CHRIS , WHO WENT TO SCHOOL WITH OUR DAUGHTER, RETURNS EVERY FEW YEARS TO OREGON TO CUT ONE SPECIAL TREE. HE THEN RETURNS TO HIS HOME AND FROM THIS TREE FASHIONS PRIZE WINNING VIOLINS AND CELLOS. WE CAN HARDLY IMAGINE THE TIME , SKILL AND EFFORT REQUIRED TO DO THIS JOB. WE DID FIND TWO VIGNETTES , HOWEVER, THAT SEEM TO CAPTURE THE FRUSTRATION AND PASSION THAT MAKERS OF STRING INSTRUMENTS MUST FEEL ON OCCASION. THE FOLLOWING VIGNETTES ARE FOR YOU, CHRIS. KEEP IN TOUCH.



**More Poster Stamps of Interest:**

Nostalgia is the hook that has helped catch many a Poster Stamp collector. Poster Stamps that feature automobiles of yesteryear have certainly caught us. What a thrill it must have been for Barney Oldfield to rip down the speedway at 97 miles per hour in his race car with real balloon tires.

Or consider the international road race as depicted in this 1912 issue. What fun.

In the 1915 issue we see two people, the driver and a mechanic who went along hoping that his services would not be required.

By 1920 race cars seemed to grow longer, but no major change in automotive design was noted in this vignette. Apparently it did not occur to anyone to consider wind resistance when designing one of these awesome vehicles. This is a marvelous topic, folks. If you are interested in this topic, write to us and we will gladly put in touch with others who share your interest.

**What is OLD in non-postal literature:**

Occasionally we revisit Robert Dubois' Olympic Seal Catalog and are impressed anew. Apart from being the definitive study on the subject, it is a fully illustrated, user-friendly volume consisting of 604 pages. All items are priced. If anyone wants to know anything about any Olympic seal, in any country for any year up to and including 1984, the information is simply a matter of turning to the right page. Are copies still available? Yes. How much? \$50.00. Is it really worth \$50.00. Yes. How do I order a copy? Write your editor.

**What is NEW and Pending in non-postal literature:**

Many of us have come across Western Union Telegraph advertisements noting the various messages that can be communicated by using this service. "Send Money", "Congratulations on Your New Baby"; "Happy Birthday Greetings" "Merry Christmas" are but a few ideas these vignettes suggested to the public. Edward Cider has collected hundreds of these items and is on the verge of publishing his catalog. We will keep you posted on when copies will be available.



**Correction:** Not only is it difficult to imagine 2 million different vignettes in a single collection that we mentioned in our last Bulletin, but we have since learned from two different sources that 2 million different vignettes simply don't exist. From England Mark Dorman, membership editor of the Cinderella Stamp Club, informs us that one of the largest Cinderella collections ever sold was that of P.F. Rampacker in Germany in 1978 to a Parisian buyer. It consisted of 55,000 different vignettes. Our friend from Germany, Manfred Zollickhoffer, tells us that no more than 100,000 different designs have been printed from the late 1800's to the present. We stand corrected. Please place this information in you memory bank.

**Fact or Fantasy:** Once upon a time an enterprising art dealer made an offer to purchase a Poster Stamp that was designed by the internationally known artist, Maxfield Parrish. He offered a sum that no Poster Stamp dealer could refuse. He then placed this vignette in an antique frame and sold it for an undisclosed amount of money as a Maxfield Parrish original (which it was). The art dealer, so the story goes, then lived happily ever after.



**FOR THE RECORD:** In Bulletin #3 we illustrated seven of ten stick figures. We have since located two more. Number ten continues to elude us. If anyone can complete the record, please let us hear from you.

**Topics of interest:** Fairy tales are collected by several members of our Society. We doubt if anyone can tell the story of Hansel & Gretel better visually than the German artist, Hein Vogeler (1872-1942). We assume that Leibniz Kekes is a cookie factory in Hanover. We do not know what TET stands for, but we trust we shall soon find out.



H. BRILIGENS KEKS-FABRIK, HANNOVER



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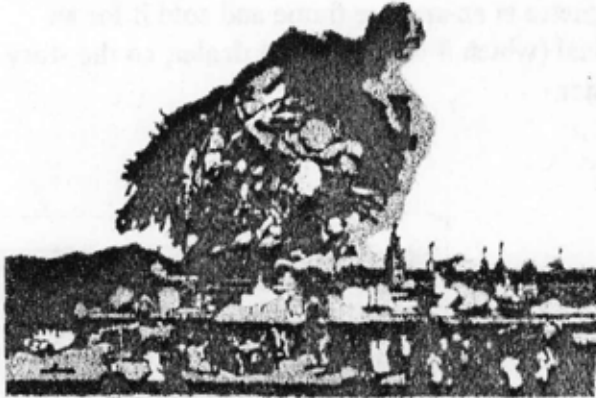
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## A Topic of Interest:

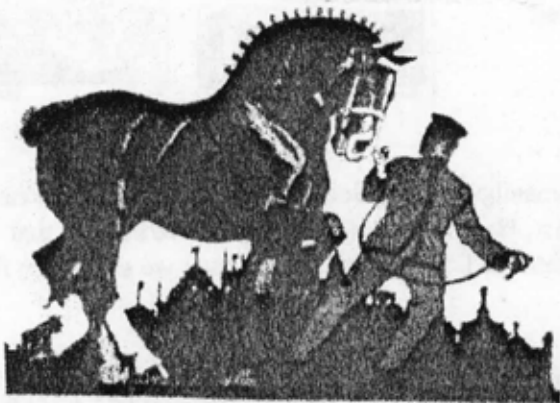
Where we come from, our State Fair is a Summertime activity. This is not so in the State of Arizona. November is the month and winter is the time for their State Fair. The following Poster Stamps that were designed to advertise that fact, we think, are very fine examples of a focused message beautifully presented. The colors used to dramatize the affair are red, green ocr, and purple. While other States may have equally well done designs to advertise their State Fairs, none are likely to be done any better. These are lovely indeed.



**ARIZONA STATE FAIR**  
PHOENIX, ARIZONA, NOVEMBER 12 TO 17



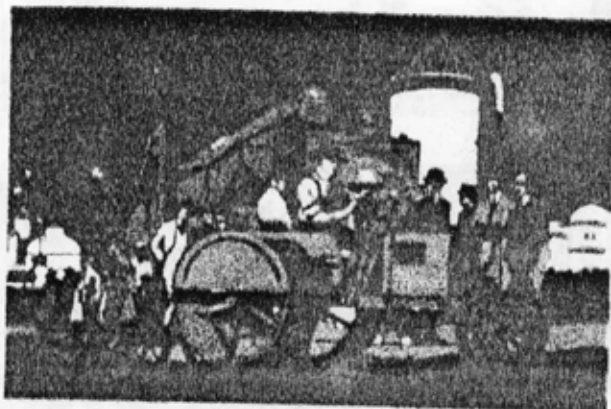
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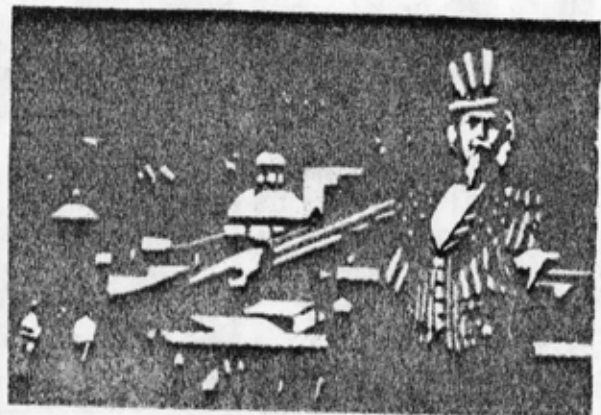
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Our friend, Robert Dubois, sent us the following article on the Hollywood Mail Train issues which he wrote especially for us. For those who are unfamiliar with this tale, we can only envy you who are learning about it for the first time. Robert adds some material, however, that will be new to us all. Thanks, Robert. We are grateful.

THE HOLLYWOOD MAIL TRAIN ISSUE

pl of 3

by Robert J. DuBois

Much has been written on this non-postal stamp. The details that relate to the history of the Mail Train issue vary. This is merely an attempt to briefly tell the story as it probably happened.

There used to be a federal law that prohibited the reproduction of a U.S. postage stamp by any means for any reason. Yes, ludicrous as it sounds today, it was illegal to portray a postage stamp in a movie.

In the late 1930s a Hollywood movie entitled "A Letter to Evie" required that a stamped and cancelled envelope be portrayed in detail. A tax consultant who also happened to be a philatelist, William O'Hara, advised the movie moguls that a philatelic fantasy be created for use in the film. With their approval, he designed and printed the Mail Train stamp which resembles the 5¢ U.S. Parcel Post issue of 1912 (Scott #Q5)



This bogus stamp exists in three different basic colors, red, green and blue. Besides existing in several shades of those colors there are perf varieties and imperfs. It is obvious that over the years these issues have been reprinted; but very likely from the same plates as there are no easy to find differences in the designs.

The few copies seen by this writer are all perf 12. Other perf gauges have been reported:  $11\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $11\frac{3}{4}$ , and  $12\frac{3}{4}$ . The colors of originals, as the single shown above, are printed in light shades and on thicker paper with dull yellow gum. The reprints are printed in deep rich, bright shades on thinner paper. Sets of perf & imperf reprints are now shown; note that both shades of the same color are different:



An imperf pair of the red variety is now shown:



Other multiples or sheets have not been seen by the writer. Now to continue our story: The movie "A Letter to Evie" was filmed, and all went well until 1945 when Mr. O'Hara decided to give sets of the Mail Train issue to his friends, and to anyone else who would send him an SASE. He advised everyone that his movie stamp should not be used as regular postage.

However, in 1964 a postmaster noticed that a Mail Train stamp had been used to send a letter through the mail. He notified the Secret Service. Subsequently the entire stock of such stamps in Mr. O'Hara's possession was confiscated. A short time later Secret Service agents visited a New York stamp dealer who had advertised movie stamps for sale. They not only took his available supply but attempted to track down customers who had purchased the bogus stamps from him.

Since that time the laws have changed and things have calmed down considerably, for which all cinderella collectors are most grateful. The basic ruling in that regard today is that non-postal items can appear on mailings as long as the proper amount of U.S. postage is there too.

A Swedish Cinderella is now shown that has a similar design. Other than the similar appearance, it is not known to relate in any way to either the U.S. Parcel Post or Mail Train stamps:



The Swedish text translates: National Railway Association (or Union)/above; and "Well Made"/below (No doubt a Swedish way of saying "safe").

A Note on the 3 Vignettes shown on these two pages: The trains are all a bit different, as follows: The Parcel Post depicts a freight train, the other two are passenger trains; the mail bag on rack is in different positions on the Parcel Post & Mail Train vignettes; the Swedish label depicts a train without a cow-catcher in front (bumper in front instead); other design differences are left to the reader's inspection of the illustrations.

A more recent misuse of postage occurred in about 1976, in a movie titled "Taxi Driver." A central character sends a letter to his girl friend of the moment and we get a very good picture of the stamp he puts on the letter. It happens to be the 2¢ Harold Lloyd Wright of 1966, one of the Prominent American Issue set, Scott No. 1280:



There was a 2¢ rate in 1932 but this picture was set in modern times when it took a thirteen-cent stamp to frank a letter. We hear of the expense Hollywood goes to to make their movies realistic, but when it comes to using a postage stamp the one who decides such things must conclude that one stamp is the same as another?

We have seen what happened back in the 1930s when movie makers tried to avoid the use of U.S. postage stamps. Those Hollywood Mail Train stamps did get used on cover prior to such usage being corrected by the Secret Service and the U.S.P.S.

The U.S. postal rate for the 1st ounce of 1st Class Mail was increased from 29¢ to 32¢, effective on January 1, 1995. That increase of 3¢ in that rate led to the usage of many varieties of old & new 3¢ stamps. As we might expect, it occurred to someone that the Hollywood Mail Train stamps, while non-postal, also had "3 CENTS 3" across the bottom. A cover dated FEB 13, 1995, from READING, PA, is shown below with a pale blue, imperf, Mail Train stamp combined with a current 29¢ stamp:

EDWARD CARVALHO  
Box 93  
Reading, Pa. 19603



Graf Zeppelin Over Atlantic



This stamp paid postage on a card by steamer to Germany, and from Germany to South America by Graf Zeppelin.

ROBERT Du Bois  
838 TEMPLE RD  
POTTSTOWN, PA  
19464

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Postage Stamps

Postcards

Topic(s) \_\_\_\_\_

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## **Urgent Needs & Desperate Desires Department:**

Our friend, Richard Roberts, is in search of the following: All Poster Stamps that deal with State of Minnesota in general and Minneapolis & St. Paul in particular. If you can help Richard, let your editor know.

### **A Parting Word:**

It is most gratifying to enclose an article by Robert Dubois on the Hollywood Mail Train Stamp for your enjoyment. We will have still another article by Robert next time. It is a consumation devoutely to be wished that others would follow Robert's example and submit articles of interest to The Bulletin. We eagerly await your contribution.

Our battle with THE BEAST (our P.C.) continues and we hope that our emotional stability is sufficient to cope with the shocks and arrows that THE BEAST has imposed upon us. It ain't easy, folks, to press the wrong button and, in an instant, wipe out one's work. The words that flow from one's mouth in such a moment would do credit to a Barbary Coast pirate.



A thing of beauty is a joy forever

**The Poster Stamp Society  
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